

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 INT-08 EB-11 CG-00 COME-00 SCI-06

OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /106 W

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P R 051815Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 3936

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

COMICEDEFOR PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MARR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE AND NATO

REF: REYKJAVIK 1013.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS INFORMED MFA THAT NIMROD FLIGHTS NOT CONNECTED WITH NATO MISSION AND SOLELY IN SUPPORT OF TRAWLER EPROTECTION OPERATION, END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH DCM INFORMED US SEPT 5 THAT BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD DELIVERED "UNOFFICIAL PAPER" TO MFA EARLIER IN THE DAY. PAPER STATED THAT HMG HAS NEVER CLAIMED OR SUGGESTED THAT PRESENT NIMROD OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF ROYAL NAVY AND BRITISH TRAWLERS OFF ICELAND WERE IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH, AUTHORIZED BY OR UNDER AUSPICES OF NATO. PAPER WENT ON TO SAY THAT OPERATIONS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED SINCE MAY 19, DATE THAT BRITISH FLEET ASSUMED TRAWLER PROTECTION ROLE. OPERATIONS BEING CONDUCTED SOLELY ON ORDERS OF  
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HMG TO PREVENT HARASSMENT OF BRITISH TRAWLERS BY ICELANDIC COAST

GUARD ON HIGH SEAS.

3. PAPER POINTED OUT THAT NIMROD AIRCRAFT WERE NOT ENTERING ICELANDIC AIR SPACE AND DID NOT FLY BETWEEN FOUR AND TWELVE MILES FROM ICELANDIC BASE LINES, I.E., WITHIN ICELAND'S INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL FISHERIES JURISDICTION. AIRCRAFT WERE PATROLLING AT HEIGHTS BETWEEN 500 AND 2500 FEET OR WELL BELOW LOWER LIMIT OF REYKJAVIK DOMESTIC CONTROL AREA WHICH OVER SEA IS 3000 FEET. REYKJAVIK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITIES ADVISED OF GENERAL AREA IN WHICH NIMROD'S WOULD BE FLYING AND AT HALF-HOUR INTERVALS OF POSITION AND HEIGHT OF AIRCRAFT.

4. DURING INTERVIEW MORNING SEPT 5 WITH INDEPENDENCE PARTY DAILY VISIR, PRIMIN JOHANNESSON (WHO IS ACTING AS FONMIN) SAID THAT NO REPLY HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM NATO REGARDING GOI REQUEST THAT NIMROD FLIGHTS BE TERMINATED. JOHANNESSON SAID THAT CABINET MEETING WILL BE HELD EARLY NEXT WEEK AT WHICH HE WILL PROPOSE THAT ICELANDIC AIR CONTROL SERVICES TO NIMRODS BE ENDED. WHEN ASKED WHY THIS WAS NOT DONE WHEN FLIGHTS COMMENCED, HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT WITHOUT CONTROL FLIGHTS WOULD CONSTITUTE HAZARD TO AIR SAFETY. HE SAID THAT FLIGHTS WERE UNDER BRITISH COMMAND BUT THAT GOI HAD CONSIDERED THAT THEY WERE BEING CONDUCTED UNDER NATO AUSPICES. HE POINTED OUT THAT GOI CANNOT PROHIBIT PLANES FROM FLYING OUTSIDE OF ICELANDIC AIR SPACT, I.E., BEYOND TWELVE MILES.

5. JOHANNESSON WAS NOT IN POSSESSION OF BRITISH PAPER BEFORE NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW. IT IS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT BRITISH PREPARED PAPER IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS MADE DURING INTERVIEW. IRVING

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